

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /080 W

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P R 171635Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3867

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS PFOR AG MO SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: GOA STATEMENT

REF: (A) ALGIERS 0399, (B) USDAO RABAT 161230Z FEB 76 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING FEB 16 MEETING OSTENSIBLY DEVOTED TO CONSIDERATION OF NEW NATIONAL CHARTER, ALGERIAN COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUED PUBLIC RESPONSE TO KING HASSAN'S FEB 15 MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ON SAHARA. RESPONSE, WHICH WAS REPEATED TWICE FEB 16 EVENING NEWS BROADCASTS, CONTAINS SIX POINTS:

A. THERE IS NO UNIT OF ALGERIAN ARMY ON SAHARAN TERRITORY. "WORLD OPINION IS INVITED TO NOTE THIS ON THE GROUND." IN WAKE OF JAN 29 CLASH AT AMGALA, ALGERIA REFUSED TO BE PROVOKED AND AVOIDED GENERAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO BROTHER PEOPLES. THIS GESTURE WILL LIVE IN HISTORY OF MAGHREB AS VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE KEEPING.

B. FEB 14 CLASH BETWEEN POLISARO AND MOROCCANS MEANS ONLY ONE THING-- THAT SAHRAOUI PEOPLE EXISTS AND HAS DECIDED  
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TO DEFEND ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY.

C. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD BE INSPIRED BY SAHRAOUI INSISTENCE ON SELF-DETERMINATION, A RIGHT RECOGNIZED BY ALL INTERNATIONAL BODIES.

D. KING'S MESSAGE DOES NOT SPEAK OF DENIAL OF RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION; THIS DENIAL IS AT ORIGIN OF CURRENT SITUATION.

E. OPPOSITION TO SAAHRAOUI SELF-DETERMINATION, OPPOSING SAHRAOUI RESISTANCE, AND PICKING QUARREL WITH ALGERIA IS DELIBERATELY WISHING TO COMPROMISE PEACE, SECURITY, AND STABILITY IN REGION. RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE SEEKING TO SACRIFICE FUTURE OF MAGHREB PEOPLES WILL BE HEAVY.

F. ALGERIA HOLDS DEAR FUTURE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS OF BITS BROTHERS, MOROCCAN PEOPLES.

2. POLISARIO SPOKESMAN IN PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 16 CHANGED HIS STATEMENT EARLIER IN DAY THAT FEB 14 CLASH HAD BEEN AT HAWZA, NOT AMGALA. CLASH HAD IN FACT OCCURRED AT AMGALA, HE SAID, BUT HE DENIED THAT AIRCRAFT AND ARTILLERY HAD BEEN USED AGAINST MOROCCANS AND THAT ALGERIANS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. WITH RESPECT TO HAWZA, SPOKESMAN SAID MOROCCAN UNIT NEAR THERE HAD BEEN CUT OFF BY POLISARIO SINCE FEB. 11. HE REFERRED TO INCIDENT AS FOLLOWS: "THE VICTORY OF AMGALA, FIRST RESULT OF GENERALIZED GUERRILLA WARFARE;" ELSEWHERE HE SPEAKS OF "GENERAL OFFENSIVE" IN SAHARA.

3. PRESS ALSO CARRIES ACCOUNT OF LE MONDE REPORT DOUBTING THAT LATEST AMGALA CLASH HAD INVOLVED ALGERIAN ARMY. SPECIAL LE MONDE CORRESPONDENT IN ALGIERS REPORTED TO BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT, HAVING EVACUATED MAHBES, ALGERIANS WOULD LAUNCH STRIKE FARTHER INTO SAHARAN TERRITORY AT AMGALA.

4. COMMENT: GOA STATEMENT LESS CATEGORICAL THAN IT COULD HAVE BEEN RE ALGERIAN INVOLVEMENT IN LATEST AMGALA INCIDENT. STATEMENT CONFINES ITSELF TO SAYING THAT, AS OF FEB 16, NO ALGERIAN TROOPS PRESENT IN SAHARA; IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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LEAVES IT TO OFFICIAL MEDIA COMMENT FEB 16 (REF A) TO DENY SPECIFICALLY THAT ALGERIANS HAD NOT FOUGHT AT AMGALA ON FEB 14.PARKER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INFORMATION MEDIA, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, SELFDETERMINATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ALGIER00413  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 76 ALGIERS 399  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAHARA: GOA STATEMENT  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, AG, F POLISARIO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006